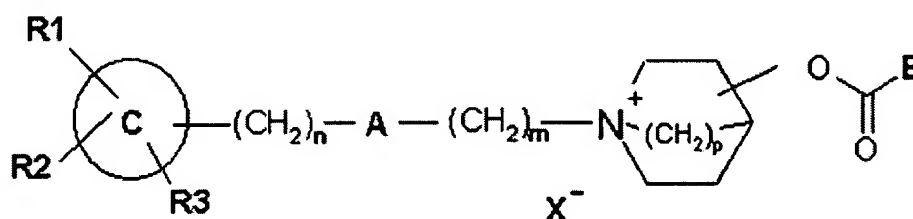


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A compound according to formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

© is a phenyl ring, a C₄ to C₉ heteroaromatic group containing one or more heteroatoms or a naphthalenyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalenyl or biphenyl group;

R¹, R² and R³ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or halogen atom, or a hydroxy group, or a phenyl, -OR⁴, -SR⁴, -NR⁴R⁵, -NHCOR⁴, -CONR⁴R⁵, -CN, -NO₂, -COOR⁴ or -CF₃ group, or a straight or branched lower alkyl group which may optionally be substituted, ~~for example,~~ with a hydroxy or alkoxy group, wherein R⁴ and R⁵ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, straight or branched lower alkyl group or together form an alicyclic ring; or R¹ and R² together form an aromatic, alicyclic or heterocyclic ring,

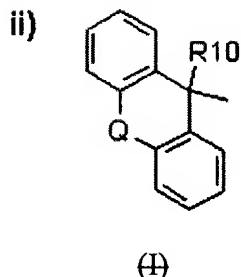
n is an integer from 0 to 4;

A represents a -CH₂-, -CH=CR⁶-, -CR⁶=CH-, -CR⁶R⁷-, -CO-, -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, SO₂ or -NR⁶- group, wherein R⁶ and R⁷ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, straight or branched lower alkyl group or R⁶ and R⁷ together form an alicyclic ring;

m is an integer from 0 to 8; provided that when m = 0, A is not -CH₂-;

p is an integer from 1 to 2 and the substitution in the azoniabicyclic ring may be in the 2, 3 or 4 position including all possible configurations of the asymmetric carbons;

B represents a group of formula ii):



wherein R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy or methyl group;

and Q represents a single bond, $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-O-$, $-O-CH_2-$, $-S-$, $-S-CH_2-$ or $-CH=CH-$; and

X represents a pharmaceutically acceptable anion of a mono or polyvalent acid.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A compound according to claim 36, wherein any alkyl group present as R^1 to R^7 or R^{11} contains from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 36 wherein $p=2$.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 36 wherein © represents a phenyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, furyl, biphenyl, naphthalenyl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalenyl, benzo[1,3]dioxolyl, imidazolyl or benzothiazolyl group.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 39, wherein © represents a phenyl, pyrrolyl or thienyl group.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 36 wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen or halogen atom or a hydroxy, methyl, tert-butyl, $-CH_2OH$, 3-hydroxypropyl, $-OMe$, $-NMe_2$, $-NHCOMe$, $-CONH_2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-COOMe$ or $-CF_3$ group.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 41 wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen or halogen atom or a hydroxy group.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 42, wherein the halogen atom is fluorine.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A compound according claim 36 wherein A represents a $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, $-\text{NMe}-$, $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{S}-$ group; n is 0 or 1; and m is an integer from 1 to 6.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 44, wherein A represents a $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ or $-\text{O}-$ group and m is 1, 2 or 3.

Claim 46 (previously presented): A compound according claim 36 wherein the azoniabicyclo group is substituted on the nitrogen atom with a 3-phenoxypropyl, 2-phenoxyethyl, 3-phenylallyl, phenethyl, 3-phenylpropyl, 4-phenylbutyl, 3-(2-hydroxyphenoxy)propyl, 3-(4-fluorophenoxy)propyl, 2-benzyloxyethyl, 3-pyrrol-1-ylpropyl, 2-thien-2-ylethyl or 3-thien-2-ylpropyl group.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A compound according claim 36, wherein Q represents a single bond, a $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2-$ group or an oxygen atom.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A compound according claim 36 wherein X represents a bromide, chloride or trifluoroacetate anion.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 36 wherein the azoniabicyclo group is substituted in the 3-position.

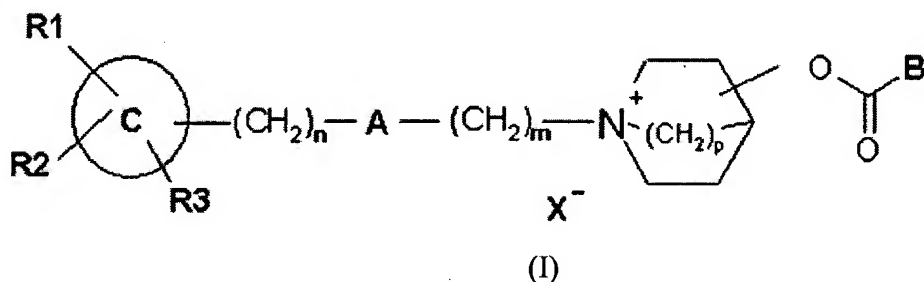
Claim 50 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 49, wherein the substituent in the 3 position has (R) configuration.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 36 which is a single stereoisomer.

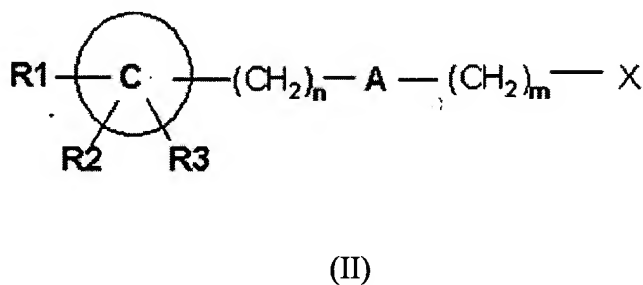
Claim 52 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 36 which is
1-(3-phenylallyl)-3(R)-(9-Hydroxy-9[H]-fluorene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-azoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
bromide
3(R)-(9-Hydroxy-9[H]-fluorene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-(3-phenoxypropyl)-1-azoniabicyclo
[2.2.2]octane; bromide
3(R)-(9-Hydroxy-9[H]-fluorene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-phenethyl-1-
azoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane; bromide
3(R)-(9-Hydroxy-9H-fluorene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-(3-thien-2-ylpropyl)-1-azoniabicyclo
[2.2.2]octane; bromide
3(R)-(9-Methyl-9[H]-fluorene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-(3-phenylallyl)-1-
azoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane; bromide
3(R)-(9-Methyl-9[H]-fluorene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-(3-phenoxypropyl)-1-azoniabicyclo
[2.2.2]octane; bromide
1-(4-Phenylbutyl)-3(R)-(9[H]-xanthene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-
azoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane; bromide
1-(2-Phenoxyethyl)-3(R)-(9[H]-xanthene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-
azoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane; bromide
1-(3-Phenoxypropyl)-3(R)-(9[H]-xanthene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-
azoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane; bromide
1-Phenethyl-3(R)-(9[H]-xanthene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-azoniabicyclo
[2.2.2] octane; bromide
3(R)-(9-Hydroxy-9[H]-xanthene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-(3-phenoxypropyl)-1- azoniabicyclo
[2.2.2]octane; bromide
3(R)-(9-Hydroxy-9[H]-xanthene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-phenethyl-1-
azoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane; bromide
3(R)-(9-Hydroxy-9H-xanthene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-(3-thien-2-ylpropyl)-1-azoniabicyclo
[2.2.2]octane; bromide or
3(R)-(9-Methyl-9[H]-xanthene-9-carbonyloxy)-1-(3-phenoxy-propyl)-1-azoniabicyclo
[2.2.2]octane; bromide.

Claim 53 (currently amended): A compound according to claim 36 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it has an IC_{50} value for muscarinic M_3 receptors ($Hm3$) of less than 35 nM.

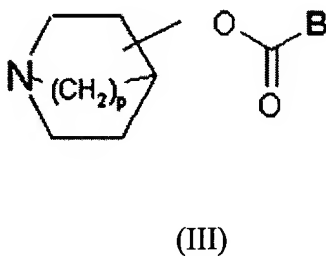
Claim 54 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



which comprises reacting an alkylating agent of formula (II)



with a compound of formula (III)



to obtain a reaction mixture comprising the compound of formula (I), wherein, in each of formulae I, II and III, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , \textcircled{C} , A, X, B, n, m and p are as defined in claim 36.

Claim 55 (currently amended): A process according to claim 54 ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the resulting reaction mixture is purified by solid phase extraction.

Claim 56- 60 (cancelled)

Claim 61 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 36 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 62 (currently amended): A method for treating respiratory, urinary and/or gastrointestinal disease in which the muscarinic M₃ receptor is implicated, which method comprises administering to a human or animal patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 36-53 or of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 61.

Claim 63 (previously presented): A method for treating COPD, chronic bronchitis, asthma and/or rhinitis which method comprises administering to a human or animal patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 36-53 or of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 61.